



Everything You Wanted to Know about Single Stream Recycling but Were Afraid to Ask

Please don't place the following in your recycling carts: trash, electronics, needles or syringes, hazardous waste, food or liquid, diapers, wood, pillows or clothing.

Below is detailed information about what items can and cannot be placed in the recycling carts.

It is difficult to list every item. Please don't hesitate to call (508) 979-1493 if you have a question about an item. Also, email us at recycling@newbedford-ma.gov.

|  YES Place these in your recycling cart |  NO Don't place these in your recycling cart |
|---|---|
| PLASTIC | |
| <p>Caps can be placed back on the bottle or jar or discarded in the trash. Rinse all containers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ plastic bottles: water, soda, juice, energy drink, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, medicine, dish liquid soap, pump soap (discard pump), olive oil or cooking oil (turn upside down to get out all the oil)✓ plastic jugs: milk, water, laundry detergent, fabric softener✓ plastic jars: peanut butter (use up all of it), mayonnaise✓ plastic tubs: margarine, butter, & cottage cheese✓ plastic cups with #1-5 on the bottom (no Styrofoam, no lids, no straws), yogurt (discard foil lid), iced coffee (no lids or straws)✓ clear clamshell containers: strawberries, blueberries, tomatoes, pastries✓ and more: clear egg cartons (no Styrofoam), cookie trays (remove plastic film around package) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ audio and video tapes✗ buckets✗ candy or popsicle wrappers✗ case wrap (the plastic wrap around multi-packs of paper towels or water bottles)✗ flower pots✗ foil yogurt lids✗ food or liquid✗ hangers✗ hoses✗ microwavable trays✗ motor oil containers✗ plastic bags✗ plastic utensils✗ plastic wrapper around package of cookies✗ plastic plates✗ pouches such as baby food, tuna fish or juice✗ recyclable containers full of food (refrigerator cleanout)✗ six-pack rings✗ straws✗ Styrofoam coffee cups, meat trays, peanuts, take-out containers, and blocks |
| GLASS | |
| <p>Caps can be placed back on the bottle or jar or discarded in the trash. Rinse all containers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ glass food containers: spaghetti sauce jars, pickle jars, salsa jars, olive oil or cooking oil container (turn upside down to get out all the oil)✓ glass beverage containers: wine bottles, beer bottles, iced tea bottles | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ broken glass✗ ceramics (such as mugs, plates, bowls)✗ drinking glasses✗ food or liquid✗ light bulbs✗ mirrors✗ pane glass✗ plate glass✗ Pyrex cookware✗ recyclable containers full of food (refrigerator cleanout)✗ vases |

METAL

Sharp lids may be pressed inside metal cans or removed & discarded. Rinse all containers.

- ✓ **food and beverage cans:** soda, juice, soup, vegetables, tuna fish
- ✓ **empty aerosol containers:** hair spray, shaving cream, paint, bug spray, oven cleaner
- ✓ **and more:** pet food cans, aluminum pie plates (must be clean), clean aluminum foil (must be clean)

- ✗ batteries
- ✗ food or liquid
- ✗ hangers
- ✗ paint cans
- ✗ pots and pans
- ✗ recyclable containers full of food (refrigerator cleanout)

PAPERBOARD CARTONS

Caps can be placed back on the carton or discarded in the trash. Rinse all cartons.

- ✓ **empty refrigerated cartons:** milk, soy milk, cream, egg substitutes, juice, lemonade
- ✓ **empty shelf-stable cartons (also called boxes):** juice (discard straw), milk, soy milk, soup, broth, wine

- ✗ liquid
- ✗ straws from juice boxes

PAPER AND CARDBOARD

Flatten all boxes. No soiled paper

- ✓ **paperboard:** cereal boxes, shoe boxes, tissue boxes, cracker boxes, pasta boxes, pudding boxes, frozen food boxes, paper egg cartons, paper towel & toilet paper tubes
- ✓ **corrugated cardboard boxes:** remove packaging, flatten to fit in cart
- ✓ **pizza boxes:** recycle clean portion; often top of box is clean, discard greasy or soiled bottom of box
- ✓ **shredded paper:** place in clear plastic bag or paper bag
- ✓ **paper typically found at home:** lottery tickets, greeting cards (without batteries), invitations, junk mail, magazines, mat board (used in picture framing), newspapers, packing paper, paperback books, phone books, brochures, calendars, glossy paper, receipts, paper bags, catalogs
- ✓ **paper typically found at school or office:** hanging file folders, folders, index cards, white and colored copy paper, envelopes with or without windows, card stock, Post-it notes, spiral notebooks

- ✗ cigarette packs
- ✗ hardcover books
- ✗ ice cream cartons
- ✗ paper plates
- ✗ paper towels, napkins, and tissues
- ✗ pet food bags
- ✗ raisin box or container
- ✗ soiled, greasy, or moldy paper
- ✗ stickers or sheets of address labels
- ✗ spiral containers such as Pringles potato chips
- ✗ waxed paper

Contact Information

New Bedford Refuse District Recycling Office
(508) 979-1493
recycling@newbedford-ma.gov

questions about curbside recycling, drop-off recycling and recycling events

Department of Facilities and Fleet Management
(508) 979-1520

questions about curbside recycling, curbside solid waste and drop-off recycling